

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
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Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

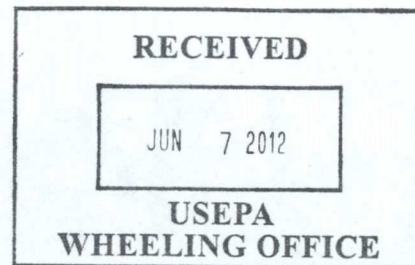
**SUBJECT:** Range Resources, PA-11-0609, Yeager Impoundment  
Hopewell Township, Washington County, PA

**FROM:** Paula Curtin *Paula Curtin 5/29/12*  
Spill Enforcement Coordinator (3HS61)

**TO:** File

**THRU:** Joan Armstrong, Chief *JA 6/5/12*  
Oil and Prevention Branch (3HS61)

**THRU:** Karen Melvin, Associate Director *Karen Melvin 06/06/2012*  
Office of Enforcement (3HS60)



On August 5, 2011, an Information Request letter pursuant to Section 308 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) was issued to Range Resources. The request was sent as a result of a July 13, 2011 complaint made to the NRC (#982515) by a resident living near the Yeager impoundment, in Hopewell Township, PA. The report alleged that "an unknown material bubbling up from the ground was running into a nearby stream". On October 5, 2011, EPA received a response from Range Resources.

According to the response, on July 13, 2011, a landowner near the Yeager impoundment reported observing material that was bubbling in a small stream near the impoundment. On July 13, 2011, representatives from Range and PA DEP visited the stream and observed the bubbling material in a small unnamed stream. Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc., (CEC) was contacted and tasked to sample the bubbling material. According to a report prepared by CEC, on July 14, 2011, two samples were collected from the Yeager impoundment. The analytical results (included in the response), confirmed the bubbling was a mixture of ambient air, carbon dioxide and methane, and was microbial in nature.

On July 14, 2011, OSC, Deborah Lindsey, representatives from OECEJ and EAID conducted a site visit to the Yeager impoundment in response to the complaint. During the site visit, the OSC made the following observations. The stream located behind the Yeager impoundment appeared to have been formed from natural drainage in the area, and flowed to Baner Creek. The amount of surface water in the unnamed stream was low and covered with a brown film that had a strong septic odor. OSC Lindsey determined in order to fully investigate the complaint, sampling of the stream would be necessary.

Between July 15, 2011 and July 26, 2011, the OSC worked to obtain access agreements from the necessary property owners in order to collect the surface water samples. On August 15, 2011, the OSC met with representatives of Range Resources in order to gain access to the sampling location and to conduct a site reconnaissance to determine the conditions under which the samples could be collected. At that time, the surface water in the unnamed stream was too low



to conduct the sampling. The OSC determined that samples would need to be collected soon after a significant rain event in order to collect the volumes necessary for the wide array of analyses planned.

On September 12, 2011, the OSC and START contractor collected the water samples from the unnamed stream. The samples were analyzed by several different methods for organic constituents including, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, dissolved gasses and diesel range only compounds. Results from the organic analysis showed only methane to be present in the sample at a concentration of 3.1 micrograms per liter. No other analytes were found to be present above the method detection limit.

The samples were also analyzed for various inorganic constituents, including metals, mercury, bromide, chloride, sulfate, total phosphate, total dissolved solids, total suspended solids, alkalinity and turbidity. It was determined, based on the results; the concentrations did not exceed levels that would warrant a removal action or exceed drinking water standards.

After review of the analytical data, OSC Lindsey made the determination that results of the samples collected on September 12, 2011 do not show levels that exceed EPA drinking water standards or ecological risk screening levels. No further action is warranted from the Office of Preparedness and Response. The full report prepared by the OSC and complete analytical data was received 5/23/12 and will be maintained in the case file.

Based on the review of the response, analytical data supplied by EPA OSC Lindsey, and investigations conducted by PA DEP Oil and Gas, it has been determined that no actionable discharge of oil or hazardous substance to navigable waters of the U.S. can be substantiated.

Accordingly, based on current information available, there is no further action under § 311 (b)(3) of the CWA being contemplated at this time. EPA reserves the right to conduct future investigations and bring future enforcement actions, as appropriate.

